ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A mobile communications network includes base stations and a system controller, such as a serving GPRS support node (SGSN) of a General Packet Radio Service network. An interface, such as a Gb interface, is provided between each base station and

5   the system controller. A plurality of paths (e.g., Network Service virtual circuits) in the interface are identified, with each path defined by an address in the base station and an address in the system controller. One of the plurality of paths is associated for a given mobile station. Load sharing can be accomplished by employing either an implicit path negotiation or an explicit path negotiation.

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